

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Further consideration of this application is requested. Claims 19-26 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

Submitted with this response is an evidentiary declaration of the senior inventor Hiroyuki Kometani made June 6, 2006.

New claims 23-26 are added directed to preferred aspects of the disclosure. New claim 23 defines the polyol consistent with paragraph [0027] of the description and also specifies various polyisocyanates as in paragraphs [0033] and [0034]. New claims 24 and 25 correspond to counterpart claims 20 and 21 but dependent from new claim 23.

New claim 26 is directed to the MDI based prepolymer and thus is a more specific version of pending claim 22.

The sole issue raised in the outstanding Official Action is the patentability of claims 19-22 which stand rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of four documents as identified in item 3 of the Action.

In a previous communication, the examiner indicated the term "MDI prepolymer", particularly the "prepolymer" part, is not completely described in the specification of this application such as on page 13 of the specification. Attention is directed to "Polymer Handbook" of Gunter Oartel, pages 20-23, 374-377 (copy attached).

See also the relevant pages 10-13 of J.H. Saunders and K.C. Frisch, "Polyurethanes", copy attached.

Applicants submit a person of ordinary skill in this art will be well aware of the meaning of a "prepolymer".

On page 4, line 3 of the Official Action, the examiner comments that applicants have not provided showings commensurate in scope with the claims now under review. The specification includes Table 3 on page 22.

In the attached Declaration of inventor Kometani additional studies are presented following the procedures used in Examples 7-12 of the specification. The Declaration itself contains a brief outline of experiments as well as detailed tables including additional examples according to the invention and further comparative examples.

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This expanded information is submitted to be commensurate in scope with the claims now under review and demonstrates the beneficial properties of preparing a two component polyurethane sealant using the catalyst specified in the claims.

Favorable consideration of this further evidence and allowance are solicited. Should the examiner require further information, please contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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